

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/775,312

Examiner

Amanda C Walke

Applicant(s)

LEVENSON, MARC DAVID

Art Unit

1752

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the application filed 2/10/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-37.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 10 February 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-37 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The instant application claims an apparatus comprising a layer of material wherein a first light beam and a second light beam of different wavelengths enter the layer of material having different transmission coefficients when propagating through the layer of material in the same propagation direction wherein the propagation direction has an angle of between 35 and 85 degrees with respect to the normal to the first surface as described by the instant claim 1. One reference of note was found in the search of the prior art. Natansohn et al (5,173,381) is cited for its teaching of a novel series of azo polymers, copolymers and polymer blends for reversible optical storage devices are described. Various azobenzenes can be bound in the side chain or within the main chain of long chain polymers such as polyester, polystyrene and poly methacrylates with very short or no spacers to a form amorphous polymers which as a film or deposited on a transparent substrate can be used to record optical information using a linearly polarized laser beam which induces optical anisotropy in the film. The information can be erased thermally by heating above the glass transition temperature, or optically by overwriting with light polarized in a predefined zero direction or with circularly polarized light. A thin film is deposited on a transparent substrate, such as a glass sheet. Recording of optical information is achieved using linearly polarized light which induces optical anisotropy in the polymer film. The information or image is written by illuminating the film with linearly polarized light which is absorbed by the azo molecule in the film. A substantial number of the polarizable molecules subsequently align

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themselves in a direction which is perpendicular to the writing electric field direction. This preferential alignment of the molecules appears to be stable over the long term and results in a local anisotropy in the optical properties of the film, in particular dichroism and birefringence can be observed. The reference fails to teach or suggest employing a material as described by the instant claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Amanda C Walke whose telephone number is 571-272-1337. The examiner can normally be reached on M-R 5:30-4.

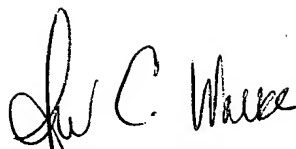
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cynthia Kelly can be reached on 571-272-1526. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amanda C. Walke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Amanda C Walke

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ACW

December 8, 2004